

Senate Bill No. 640

CHAPTER 379

An act relating to child care, and making an appropriation therefor.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 2005. Filed with
Secretary of State September 29, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 640, Escutia. Child care resource and referral programs: funding.

Existing law, the Child Care and Development Services Act, provides for a system of child care and development services for children, including children with exceptional needs, by public and private child care providers. The act authorizes the establishment of child care resource and referral programs for the purpose of, among other things, providing information and referrals to child care services and assistance to child care providers.

This bill would appropriate \$5,000,000 from the funds identified in Provision 5(c) of Item 6110-196-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2005 to the State Department of Education for the purpose of funding, beginning in the 2005-06 fiscal year, state-funded child care resource and referral programs and certain local planning councils for certain activities related to child care and development services with respect to serving children with disabilities. The bill would require the State Department of Education to develop an allocation plan to distribute these funds, as provided. The bill would require child care resource and referral programs or specified local planning councils interested in applying for these funds to submit a proposal to the State Department of Education for the use of the funds. This bill would require the State Department of Education, in coordination with the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, to develop a uniform reporting process for a state-funded child care resource and referral program or local planning council to submit a one-time report on the use and effectiveness of those funds.

Appropriation: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) A compelling body of research demonstrates that early identification and intervention for young children with disabilities results in a decrease in the need for special education placements upon arrival in the public school system.

(2) A large number of children receive child care through licensed family day care, child care centers, and in license-exempt care.

(3) Training and technical assistance enhances the ability of a child care provider to identify and accommodate the needs of young children with disabilities.

(4) Child care resource and referral programs are uniquely suited to provide training and technical assistance to assist child care providers to increase their ability to serve children with disabilities.

(5) As the single state-funded entity that serves all parents regardless of income, child care resource and referral programs are uniquely suited to assist the families of children with disabilities to become aware of their rights to access child care services and to connect families with the services available in their community.

(b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature that children with disabilities be fully included in child care programs.

SEC. 2. (a) The sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the funds identified in Provision 5(c) of Item 6110-196-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2005 to the State Department of Education for the purpose of funding, beginning in the 2005-06 fiscal year, until the funds are exhausted, state-funded child care resource and referral programs, except that in Orange, Sutter, and Yuba Counties the funding shall be allocated to the local planning council to continue existing services, for the purposes of increasing the capacity of state subsidized and nonstate subsidized child care providers to serve children with disabilities in child care settings that meet their developmental needs, consistent with the intent of the Child Care and Development Services Act pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 8200) of Part 6 of the Education Code. A child care resource and referral agency may expend funds granted to it pursuant to this subdivision for any of the following:

(1) To provide enhanced child care referrals to parents seeking child care for their children with disabilities, or at high risk of being identified as having a disability, and parental support as necessary.

(2) To provide or contract for various purposes that may include, but are not limited to, providing training and technical assistance to child care and development providers to increase their capacity to care for children with disabilities, or at high risk of being identified as having a disability.

(3) To conduct awareness and outreach to child care and development providers to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to accommodate children with disabilities, or at high risk of being identified as having a disability, and to increase their awareness of available support services to assist them in meeting the needs of all children.

(4) To conduct awareness and outreach to parents of children with disabilities, or at high risk of being identified as having a disability, to increase their understanding of their rights to accessible child care and to

increase their awareness of available services, provided that the activities contracted for further the purposes of this subdivision.

(b) The State Department of Education shall develop an allocation plan to distribute funds appropriated pursuant to this section. The allocation plan shall be developed using the ratio of the number of children ages birth to 13 years, inclusive, in each county to the total number of children ages birth to 13 years, inclusive, in the state. The county allocation shall be developed by applying the county ratio to the five million dollars (\$5,000,000) after a minimum allocation of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) is set aside for each of the smallest counties, and after three thousand dollars (\$3,000) is set aside for the smallest counties that would otherwise receive less than three thousand dollars (\$3,000), based on the allocation plan.

(c) A state-funded child care resource and referral program, or the local planning council in Orange, Sutter, or Yuba County, that is interested in applying for the available funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall submit a proposal for approval to the State Department of Education for the use of the funds, based on identified community needs and include a plan of how the approved activities will be implemented at the local level.

(d) The State Department of Education, in coordination with the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, shall develop a uniform reporting process for a state-funded child care resource and referral program or local planning council that receives funds pursuant to this section to submit a one-time report on the use and effectiveness of those funds.